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In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

BC 1. (amended) A device for compressing the chest of a patient comprising:

B1 a band adapted to extend around the chest of the patient;

a driver mechanism, operably connected to the band, for contracting the band;

a fluid-filled cushion disposed between the chest of the patient and the band; and

an automatic controller for controlling operation of the driver mechanism.

2. (amended) A device for compressing the chest of a patient comprising:

a band adapted to extend around the chest of the patient, the band having a plurality of fluid-receiving cells disposed along the length of the band;

a driver mechanism, operably connected to the band, for inflating the fluid-receiving cells;

a cushion disposed between the chest of the patient and the band; and

an automatic controller for controlling operation of the driver mechanism.

B2 5. (amended) A device for compressing the chest of a patient comprising:

a band adapted to extend around the chest of the patient, the band having a plurality of fluid-receiving cells disposed

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B2
along the length of the band, wherein the plurality of fluid-receiving cells are in fluid communication with each other;

a driver mechanism, connected to the band and the fluid-receiving cells, for inflating the fluid-receiving cells;

a cushion disposed between the chest of the patient and the band; and

an automatic controller for controlling the operation of the driver mechanism.

8. (amended) A device for compressing the chest of a patient comprising:

B3
a band adapted to extend around the chest of the patient, the band having a plurality of fluid-receiving cells disposed along the length of the band, each fluid-receiving cell being interconnected to another fluid-receiving cell by a manifold;

a driver mechanism, operably connected to the band, for inflating the fluid-receiving cells;

a cushion disposed between the chest of the patient and the band; and

an automatic controller for controlling operation of the driver mechanism.

11. (amended) A device for compressing the chest of a patient comprising:

B4
a band adapted to extend around the chest of the patient, the band having a plurality of fluid-receiving cells disposed along the length of the band, each fluid-receiving cell being interconnected to another fluid-receiving cell by a

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manifold, wherein the plurality of fluid-receiving cells are in fluid communication with each other;

B4 a driver mechanism, connected to the band and the fluid-receiving cells, for inflating the fluid-receiving cells;

a cushion disposed between the chest of the patient and the band; and

an automatic controller for controlling the operation of the driver mechanism.

Please add the following claims:

14. (new) The device of claim 1 wherein the cushion is sized and dimensioned to cover substantially the entire anterior portion of the chest of the patient.

B5 15. (new) The device of claim 2 wherein the cushion is sized and dimensioned to cover substantially the entire anterior portion of the chest of the patient.

16. (new) The device of claim 5 wherein the cushion is sized and dimensioned to cover substantially the entire anterior portion of the chest of the patient.

17. (new) The device of claim 8 wherein the cushion is sized and dimensioned to cover substantially the entire anterior portion of the chest of the patient.

18. (new) The device of claim 11 wherein the cushion is sized and dimensioned to cover substantially the entire anterior portion of the chest of the patient.

19. (new) A method of compressing the chest of a patient, said method comprising the steps of:

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providing a device for compressing the chest of a patient,
said device comprising:

- a band adapted to extend around the chest of the patient;
- a driver mechanism, operably connected to the band, for contracting the band;
- a fluid-filled cushion sized and dimensioned to cover substantially the entire anterior portion of the chest of the patient; and
- an automatic controller for controlling operation of the driver mechanism;

placing the cushion on the anterior portion of the chest of the patient;

securing the band around the chest of the patient and over the cushion; and

contracting the band to compress the chest of the patient.

20. (new) A method of compressing the chest of a patient, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a device for compressing the chest of a patient,
said device comprising:

- a band adapted to extend around the chest of the patient, the band having a plurality of fluid-receiving cells disposed along the length of the band;
- a driver mechanism, operably connected to the band, for inflating the fluid-receiving cells;

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a cushion sized and dimensioned to cover substantially the entire anterior portion of the chest of the patient; and

an automatic controller for controlling operation of the driver mechanism;

placing the cushion on the anterior portion of the chest of the patient;

securing the band around the chest of the patient and over the cushion; and

inflating the fluid-receiving cells to compress the chest of the patient.

21. (new) A method of compressing the chest of a patient, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a device for compressing the chest of a patient, said device comprising:

a band adapted to extend around the chest of the patient, the band having a plurality of fluid-receiving cells disposed along the length of the band, wherein each of the fluid-receiving cells is in fluid communication with a manifold;

a driver mechanism, operably connected to the band, for inflating the fluid-receiving cells;

a cushion sized and dimensioned to cover substantially the entire anterior portion of the chest of the patient; and

an automatic controller for controlling operation of the driver mechanism.